



**Testimony of the Rockville Mayor and Council  
County Executive's Recommended FY 24 Capital Improvements Budget and Amendments to the  
FY23-FY28 Capital Improvements Program.**

Good evening, Council President Glass and members of the County Council. I am Bridget Donnell Newton, Mayor of the City of Rockville. On behalf of our entire Council, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the County Executive's Recommended CIP.

Many schools serving Rockville students are still plagued with decrepit and overcrowded facilities. We politely – but urgently - ask for your support for the following Rockville priority MCPS capital projects:

- Complete the approved Twinbrook Elementary School Major Capital Project feasibility study ASAP so that funding is included in the next CIP. As we've pointed out for many years - this is a matter of equity and inclusion for this underserved community. The facility needs a complete rebuild – it's not ADA compliant - lacks space for individualized student support which is CRITICAL to closing the achievement gap - and the pavement surrounding the school is like driving over craters.
- Include an amendment to the CIP to expedite the Wootton High School Major Capital Project to an August 2026 completion date. We are deeply concerned about repeated delays by the County Council - thus the current project completion date of August 2029. We've heard directly from Cluster leaders about the negative emotional impact this aging and deteriorated facility is having on Wootton students. This Major Capital Project must be equitably prioritized.
- Expedite the opening of Crown Farm High School to September 2025 - not August 2026. This new school will relieve persistent overcrowding at Richard Montgomery High School and will support additional housing which we all want – but need safe school capacity.
- Fund the build-out of the second-floor shell of the Carl Sandburg Learning Center, which has been collocated with the Maryvale Elementary School. It's more expensive and disruptive to do it in stages and we saw at Bayard Rustin that its true – build it and they will come.
- Re-open Woodward High School in August 2026 - and approve a feasibility study for a major capital project at Gaithersburg Middle School.

There are two issues in the Lincoln Park and East Rockville neighborhoods that have been neglected by the County for DECADES. It's past time to remove the blight and make this community safer and bring in affordable housing and community amenities.

- Retain the CE's Recommendation of \$2.5 million for the relocation of the sagging MCPS Material Management Facility, including the removal of the unusable trailers from the site in its current location in Lincoln Park - our historic African American community. This funding was removed by the County Council in the approved 2023 CIP. I personally cannot fathom how this facility has been allowed to remain in this state of disrepair and disrespect - and this glaring inequity needs to be addressed immediately. One of our many shared goals is to increase the amount of quality workforce and affordable housing - and this is what the community wants and we support.

- Include an amendment to fund Phase II of the HISTORIC Lincoln High School renovation ASAP to prevent any further deterioration. The building is a historic treasure for the Lincoln Park community, the City of Rockville - and the County. The Phase I work to make minor envelope repairs in FY23 does not address the major structural deficiencies, environmental concerns, and fire code issues. Once again – this is a matter of respect for the community and justice in addressing previous segregation of education in our County.
- Reconsider the construction of a Restoration Center as currently proposed, whether on the currently proposed Seven Locks Road location or next to any Rockville neighborhood. We ask that you engage the City and its residents to address numerous safety concerns.

Thank you.